

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 – 31 without prejudice and add new claims 32 – 62 as follows:

5 Claims 1 – 31 (Cancelled)

32. (New) A device for electrical charging of a transport belt for transporting the recording media in a transfer printing region of an electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising:

10 a blade-like contact element via which electrical charge is transferred to the transport belt, said blade-like contact element being arranged transverse to a running direction of the transport belt and abutting on the transport belt; and

a carrier element on which said blade-like contact element is mounted, said carrier element being insertable into the printer or copier and extractable from the
15 printer or copier.

33. (New) A device according to claim 32, further comprising:
a catch constructed to secure said carrier element in place when said carrier element is completely inserted into the printer or copier.

34. (New) A device according to claim 32, further comprising:
20 a first plug element arranged on one of said carrier elements and said blade-like contact element,

a second plug element arranged in the printer or copier, and said first plug element and said second plug element form with one another an electrical plug connection when said carrier element is completely inserted into the printer
25 or copier.

35. (New) A device according to claim 32, wherein said carrier element defines a recess into which said blade-like contact element is insertable with a positive fit.

36. (New) A device according to claim 35, wherein said recess includes at least one groove.

37. (New) A device according to claim 35, wherein said blade-like contact element is retained in the recess by at least one spring-borne pressure pin that is pre-
5 stressed against the blade-like contact element.

38. (New) A device according to claim 37, wherein said blade-like contact element has a gap in which said pressure pin engages when the blade-like contact element is inserted into the recess of the carrier element.

39. (New) A device according to claim 32, wherein said blade-like contact
10 element comprises a plastic film that provides an electrical contact with the transport band.

40. (New) A device according to claim 39, wherein said plastic film is comprised of polyimide.

41. (New) A device according to claim 39, wherein an electrical resistance
15 of the plastic film is reduced by interspersed carbon black particles.

42. (New) A device according to claim 39, wherein an electrical volume resistance of the plastic film is between 10^2 and $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$.

43. (New) A device according to claims 39, wherein an electrical surface resistance of the plastic film is between 10^2 and $10^{12} \Omega/\text{sq}$.

44. (New) A device according to claims 39, wherein a thickness of said
20 plastic film is between $50 \mu\text{m}$ and $100 \mu\text{m}$.

45. (New) A device according to claims 35, wherein said blade-like contact element includes an angle plate with a first section and a second section that together form an angle, and wherein said plastic film is attached on a first section and second
25 section is at least partially inserted into the recess of the carrier element.

46. (New) A device according to claim 45, wherein said second section has at least one recurved section at which said blade-like contact element is gripped at least one of upon insertion into and, respectively, upon removal from the recess of the carrier element.

5 47. (New) A device according to claim 45, wherein said electrical contacts are arranged on the carrier element, said electrical contacts being in contact with the angle plate when said angle plate is inserted into said recess of said carrier element.

10 48. (New) A blade-like contact element for charging a transport belt for transport of the recording media in a transfer printing region of an electrophotographic printer or copier device, comprising:
a first section on which a plastic film is attached, said first section being suitable to produce an electrical contact with the transport belt; and
a second section for attachment of said blade-like contact element to a carrier
15 element which is insertable into the printer or copier.

49. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein said plastic film is of polyimide.

50. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein said electrical resistance of the plastic film 68 is reduced via interspersed carbon
20 black particles.

51. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein said volume resistance of the plastic film is between 10^2 and $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$, preferably between 10^6 and $10^8 \Omega\text{cm}$.

52. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein
25 said electrical surface resistance of the plastic film is between 10^2 and $10^{12} \Omega/\text{sq}$, preferably between 10^{10} and $10^{12} \Omega/\text{sq}$.

53. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein said thickness of the plastic film is between 50 μm and 100 μm .

54. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 48, wherein said first section and a second section are sections of an angle plate that together
5 form an angle.

55. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claim 54, in which the second section has at least one recurved section at which the blade-like contact element can be gripped upon insertion into or, respectively, upon removal from the recess of the carrier element.

10 56. (New) A blade-like contact element according to claims 48 that is fashioned for use with a transport belt for transporting the recording media in a transfer printing region of an electrophotographic printer or copier.

57. (New) A method for electrostatic charging of a transport belt for the transport of the recording media in the transfer printing region of an
15 electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising the steps of:
transferring an electrical charge to the transport belt via a blade-like contact element arranged transverse to a running direction of the transport belt and abutting on the transport belt; and
mounting the blade-like contact element on a carrier element that is selectively
20 insertable into and removable from the printer or copier.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57, further comprising the steps of:
providing a first plug element arranged on the carrier element or on the blade-like contact element;
25 providing a second plug element arranged in the printer or copier; and
forming an electrical plug connection by the first plug element and the second plug element when the carrier element is completely inserted into the printer or copier.

59. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the carrier element has a recess into which the blade-like contact element can be inserted with a positive fit.

60. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the recess
5 comprises at least one groove.

61. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the blade-like contact element is retained in the recess by at least one spring-borne pressure pin that is pre-stressed against the blade-like contact element.

62. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the blade-like
10 contact element comprises a plastic film made from polyimide that produces the electrical contact with the transport band.